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Contact Your Senator and Urge Changes to Immigration Bill

Latino Voice Needed While Senators Are Home Next Week

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sacramento- As the Senate continues to debate the immigration bill, we expect that several important amendments will be considered. Please contact Senator Feinstein and Senator Boxer today and urge them to restore the ability of over 800,000 U.S. citizens to be reunited with immediate family members. Without the Menendez/Hagel Amendment, they would lose their place in the legal immigration line and get shifted into the untested and unpredictable Point System for visa allocation. Today is the time to make your voice heard!

Please contact your senators today and urge them to vote:

1. “Yes” on the Clinton-Hagel-Menendez amendment
2. “No” on the Coleman amendment number 1158
3. “No” on the Cornyn amendment number 1184

Clinton/Hagel Amendment - This amendment would treat spouses and minor children of permanent residents as 'immediate relatives' for immigration category purposes. If adopted, the amendment would mean spouses and minor children would no longer have to endure up to five years of waiting for their visas.

Menendez/Obama Amendments - These senators are expected to offer two amendments to reduce the negative impact on family reunification that would be created by the new Point System. Please support these amendments that would (1) end the Point System after 5 years unless Congress studies and extends it and (2) give family members a better chance of emerging from the Point System with enough points to qualify for a visa. The Point System is a bad idea entirely. If it remains in the Senate bill, work should be made to remove it in the House.

The Coleman amendment would outlaw state and local policies that prevent employees – including police and health and safety workers – from inquiring about the immigration status of those they serve if there is “probable cause” to believe the individual being questioned is undocumented. This is unworkable, costly, would make many communities unsafe, and trumps on the rights of localities to determine how to maintain the safety in their cities.

The Cornyn amendment would make the entire Z visa program introduced in the Senate bill, unworkable for the Latino community. Many of the people who are undocumented because they crossed the border illegally, overstayed their visas, or used false social security numbers would be ineligible for the Z visa that could eventually lead people to legal permanent residency. We need a workable program that really fixes our broken immigration system by dealing with the undocumented population.

A provision that requires immigrants who have worked and paid into the Social Security system for years to forfeit all of the contributions they made before obtaining a newly issued social security number, thereby sentencing millions of workers to deep poverty in their retirement years despite the hard-earned taxes they have paid.

A massive new temporary worker program that fails to meet key bottom-line requirements for such a system: that temporary workers who establish ties here must have a realistic path to permanent residence and true job portability that allows them to change employers freely if they are mistreated.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SENATOR THIS MORNING. THE AMENDMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE VOTED ON THIS AFTERNOON.

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